

## WHERE DO I GO IF I NEED TO SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY RIGHT AWAY?

You can get **FREE LEGAL ADVICE** on a walk-in basis at the following locations:

### **Gaithersburg Library**

#### **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center**

18330 Montgomery Village Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month

Sign in: 6:00pm – 6:30pm (Space is limited)

### **TESS Community Action Center**

8703 Flower Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20901

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

Sign in: 6:00pm – 6:30pm (Space is limited)

### **Westfield South Building Wheaton**

#### **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center**

11002 Veirs Mill Rd., Suite 506

Wheaton, MD 20902

2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month

Sign in: 6:00pm – 6:30pm (Space is limited)

#### **Please Note:**

Clients will not be seen on a first come, first serve basis; but will be seen by an attorney versed in the legal issue.

Phone Consultations are available on a limited basis. Please call 301.424.7651 for more information.



## WHAT IF I AM NOT ELIGIBLE FOR HELP THROUGH THE PRO BONO PROGRAM?

The Pro Bono Program will try to refer you to another agency or program that may be able to help with your legal problem. If your income is too high to qualify or if your legal issue cannot be handled for FREE service through the Pro Bono Program, you may be able to obtain an attorney through the following legal providers:

### **LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE**

A representative will assist you in locating and referring you to an attorney who is well versed in the area of law needed.

The Lawyer Referral Service can be reached at (301) 279-9100 Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

### **FAMILY LAW SELF-HELP CENTER**

Low income Montgomery County residents who want to proceed with a simple family law case without an attorney can get limited legal advice or general legal information from staff and volunteer attorneys. It is a FREE walk-in clinic located on the first floor of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, 50 Maryland Avenue, Room 1500 South Tower, Rockville, MD 20850; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and Tuesdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm.



The Bar Foundation of Montgomery County is a 501 (c) (3) organization, contributions to which may be tax deductible. The Pro Bono Program's services are made possible through grants and contributions from the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, and the Division of Community Action of the Department of Health and Human Services of the Montgomery County Government.



## PRO BONO PROGRAM

If You Need a Lawyer But Cannot Afford One ...  
You May Be Able To Get Free Legal Help from Volunteer Attorneys through the Pro Bono Program



## WHAT IS THE PRO BONO PROGRAM?

The Pro Bono Program provides FREE LEGAL SERVICES to low-income county residents in civil cases. The Pro Bono Program provides two means for residents to receive free services - at a legal advice clinic or through the client intake line for referral to an attorney volunteer for direct representation.

### Who is Eligible?

Clients must meet **ALL** of the following criteria to be eligible:

- You must be a **resident of Montgomery County**
- You must **meet the Maryland income eligibility guidelines**
- You must need assistance in an **area of law which volunteer attorneys in the pro bono program will handle**



## WHAT TYPE OF CASES DOES THE PRO BONO PROGRAM HANDLE?

- Absolute Divorce (Separated 1 Year)
- Separation Agreements
- Custody
- Adoption/Guardianship
- Simple Name Changes
- Bankruptcy (Simple Chapter 7)
- Limited Debt Collection Defense
- Private Landlord Tenant (Security Deposits Only)
- Limited Immigration cases
- (Simple Change of Status)
- Limited Employment Cases (Wage Claims)
- Wills and Powers of Attorney

## WHAT TYPE OF CASES ARE NOT HANDLED BY THE PRO BONO PROGRAM?

- Emergency Cases
- Criminal and Traffic Cases
- Social Security, Unemployment, or Worker's Compensation Cases
- Any Fee-Generating Cases
- Public Benefits
- Public Housing
- Alimony/Child Support/Visitation (if not part of custody/divorce proceedings)
- Appeals
- Post-Decree Motions (orders, enforcement, or modification proceedings of any kind)
- modification proceedings of any kind)

The Pro Bono Program is committed to helping the residents of Montgomery County, MD. Individual circumstances may vary and in some cases we may not be able to assist everyone.

## WHAT DO I DO IF I NEED AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT ME FOR FREE?

- Call the Pro Bono Program at **(301) 424-7651** between the hours of **9:00 am - 3:00 pm** Monday - Thursday for an initial eligibility screening. (Please note that walk-ins are not accepted)
- If you appear to be eligible, based on the initial intake screening, the Pro Bono Program will mail you forms which must be completed and returned to us **within ten business days**. You must include a **non-refundable \$25.00 processing fee** (Cashier's Check or Money Order **ONLY**) with your completed application.
- Once determined to be eligible, after returning all the necessary information, the Pro Bono Program will place you on a **wait list** for an attorney. When a volunteer attorney agrees to review and accept your case, you will be sent a letter with the attorney's name and telephone number. You must follow up and contact the attorney to set up all appointments.
- Every effort will be made to place your case with an attorney; however, we do not guarantee placement.

## WILL I GET AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT ME IMMEDIATELY?

**No.** The Pro Bono Program depends on volunteers, so it may take several weeks to find an attorney available to represent you. For this reason, **the Program cannot assist people who have emergency cases.**